Amendments to the Claims

1.   (Original)   A method comprising:

receiving at a client station a user-request to initiate a real-time media session;

thereafter waiting for the client station to determine that the client station has acquired a data connection through which to initiate the requested real-time media session; and

in response to a determination that the client station has acquired the data connection, the client station beginning to buffer media provided by the user, for later transmission of the media into a packet-switched network.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the media comprises voice, and wherein beginning to buffer the media comprises beginning to buffer a digital representation of the voice.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the media comprises media selected from the group consisting of voice and video.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the client station is a cellular mobile station, and wherein waiting for the client station to determine that the client station has acquired the data connection comprises waiting for the client station to determine that the client station has acquired a radio link layer connection.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

making the determination that the client station has acquired the data connection.

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6.   (Original)   The method of claim 5, wherein making the determination that the client station has acquired the data connection comprises:

determining that the client station has received incoming packet-data.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 6, wherein determining that the client station has received incoming packet-data comprises:

determining that the client station has received a packet-based signaling message.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 7, wherein the packet-based signaling message is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) TRYING message.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

providing a notice to the user, in response to the determination that the client station has acquired the data connection,

whereby the notice serves to inform the user that the user should begin providing the media to the client station.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 9, wherein the notice comprises a notice of the type selected from the group consisting of an audible alert and a visual alert.

11.   (Original)   A method comprising:

receiving into a client station a user-request to initiate a real-time media session;

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in response to the user-request, the client station generating a packet-based session initiation message to send via a packet-switched network to a communication server;

the client station seeking to acquire a data connection over which to send the packet-based session initiation message;

the client station receiving a packet-based signaling message sent in response to the packet-based session initiation message; and

in response to receipt of the packet-based signaling message, the client station beginning to receive and buffer media from a user, for subsequent transmission over the packet-switched network to the communication server.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the media comprises media selected from the group consisting of voice and video.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein receiving into [[a]] the client station [[a]] the user-request to initiate [[a]] the real-time media session comprises detecting user actuation of an instant-connect button.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the packet-based session initiation message is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) INVITE message, and the packet-based signaling message sent in response to the packet-based session initiation message is a SIP TRYING message.

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15.   (Original)   The method of claim 14, wherein the client station is a wireless device, and wherein seeking to acquire a data connection over which to send the packet-based session initiation message comprises seeking to acquire a radio link layer connection with a radio access network.

16.   (Original)   A client station comprising:

a processor;

data storage;

program logic stored in the data storage and executable by the processor (i) to make a determination that the client station has acquired a data connection and (ii) in response to the determination, to begin buffering media provided by a user, for subsequent transmission of the media via a packet-switched network.

17.   (Original)   The client station of claim 16, further comprising a wireless communication interface, and wherein the data connection comprises a radio link layer connection with a radio access network.

18.   (Original)   The client station of claim 16, wherein the media comprises media selected from the group consisting of voice and video.

19.   (Original)   The client station of claim 16, further comprising a push-to-talk button for initiating a push-to-talk session.

20.   (Original)   The client station of claim 19, wherein the program logic stored in the data storage is executable by the processor to make the determination that the client station has acquired the data connection when the client station receives incoming packet data.

21.   (Original)   The client station of claim 20, wherein the incoming packet data comprises a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) TRYING message.